

Family Worship Preparation: Psalm 72 - The Reign of the Righteous King

This week, our family is preparing to hear the preaching of God's Word from Psalm 72. This is a psalm for Solomon, written by his father David, an old king passing the torch to a young king. But it is made immortal not because of its beauty, but because it is an integral part of the greatest story that's ever been told, the gospel of Jesus Christ. This psalm paints a vivid picture of what God demands of human government, and ultimately, it points us to the perfect, unstoppable reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Standard of Righteousness in Human Government

When we look at the first few verses of Psalm 72, we see a father praying that his son's political decisions will be pleasing to God. In God's order, in God's way, the authority of the civil magistrate does not come from the people; it comes from Almighty God. We must teach our children that the state is an institution created by God to enforce His standard of righteousness. A just ruler does not look at the faces of men. He does not care if a man is rich or poor. He administers justice according to the law of God, punishing the evildoer and protecting the innocent.

The Flourishing of Peace

What do we mean by this? Well, when a nation is governed by men who fear God and obey His law, the natural result is peace. The Bible calls this *shalom*. It is an all-encompassing peace, health, and prosperity that flows down from the mountains to the valleys. When a ruler defends the afflicted and crushes the oppressor, righteous families and institutions begin to flourish. We are to pray for our leaders continually, asking God to give them His judgments, so that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.

The Unstoppable Kingdom of Christ

As much as this psalm teaches us about civil government, we must realize that it ultimately points us to a greater King. Jesus Christ was given all authority in heaven and on earth when God raised Him from the dead. His kingdom has already been planted. It is growing right now, like rain coming down upon the mown grass. Christ is currently putting all His enemies under His feet, and His kingdom will advance as long as the sun and the moon endure. This is the center of the gospel message. We do not have to look at the future with fear or pessimism, because the government rests squarely on the shoulders of the Prince of Peace.

Family Reflection Questions

To help our family prepare our hearts and minds for the preaching of the Word, we need to examine how we view human authority and the ultimate kingship of Jesus Christ. These

questions will guide our family worship time. Read Psalm 72 together, and then discuss these realities as a family, ensuring that our ultimate allegiance is to the King of kings.

1. Why is it important to remember that all human authority, including our government, comes from God and must answer to His Word?
2. When David prays for the king to judge the afflicted with justice, how does this teach us to treat the weak and helpless in our own lives?
3. How does knowing that Jesus Christ is ruling the world right now change the way we look at the future and the wicked things happening in our culture?

We must continually pray for the advance of Christ's kingdom in our hearts, our home, and our nation. Our King has compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of His people are precious in His sight. We are to live as faithful, courageous citizens of His kingdom until He returns to make all things new.